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## VARIANT INFLUENZA VIRUSES

On July 21, 2012, the Indiana State Department of Health announced the [confirmation of 4 human cases](#) of variant swine influenza A H3N2. This influenza virus is similar to the variant influenza virus that was found in 13 cases nationwide in 2011. All cases had a mild influenza-like illness. The current cases are associated with direct exposure to ill swine at the LaPorte County Fair in LaPorte, Indiana during July 8-14. LaPorte County borders southwest Michigan.

According to [CIDRAP News](#), vaccines for the swine-origin H3N2 influenza variant (H3N2v) identified in 17 human cases in the past year will be tested in clinical trials.

## Related Articles:

- [CDC Reports Cases 14-17 of H3N2v Infection; Shares Advice for Safe Fair-Going](#)
- [Four novel H3N2 cases linked to pigs in Indiana](#)

## GLOBAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

### Northern Hemisphere

The [European Center for Disease Control](#) reported that countries are experiencing no activity or only sporadic activity of influenza-like illness.

### Southern Hemisphere

[WHO: Flu picking up steam in Southern Hemisphere](#)

## Vaccination

All UK children aged 2 to 17 years will be eligible to receive FluMist free of charge under a newly expanded program, according to a [Reuters report](#). Currently, the UK's National Health Service provides flu vaccine only for children with risk factors such as asthma, heart conditions, or cerebral palsy. Complete rollout will take until at least 2014 because of limitations on manufacturing capacity.

## Journal Articles

- [Influenza vaccination coverage among high-risk groups in 11 European countries](#)
- [Vaccination of Health Care Workers to Protect Patients at Increased Risk for Acute Respiratory Disease](#)
- [Unexpected severity of cases of influenza B infection in patients that required hospitalization during the first postpandemic wave](#)

## VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

A study in [Clinical Infectious Diseases](#) found that flu vaccine effectiveness was 60% during the 2010-11 season. The season was characterized by all three vaccine strains circulating. There were 1,040 influenza cases in the case-control study fairly evenly divided among pandemic 2009 H1N1, H3N2, and influenza B, as well as 3,717 flu-negative case controls. The team found an overall adjusted vaccine effectiveness (VE) of 60% (95% confidence interval [CI], 53%-66%), with age-related VE varying from 69% (95% CI, 56%-77%) in children 6 months to 8 years old to 38% (95% CI, -16% to 67%) in those 65 and older.

## Avian and Pandemic Influenza

- [WHO offers some guidance on risky H5N1 studies](#)
- [Bird Flu Researchers To Meet About Research Moratorium](#)

## FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

HHS: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

## ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

The [July 2012 issue of the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips](#) (MITT) has been posted online. The issue includes:

- 2012-13 influenza VIS available on MDCH website
- Pentacel vaccine shortage update (pg. 1);
- Adolescent immunization update (pg. 2);
- CDC Immunization Update webcast scheduled Aug. 16 (pg. 2);
- New CDC recommendations regarding HBV-infected HCP (pg. 3);
- And much, much more!

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